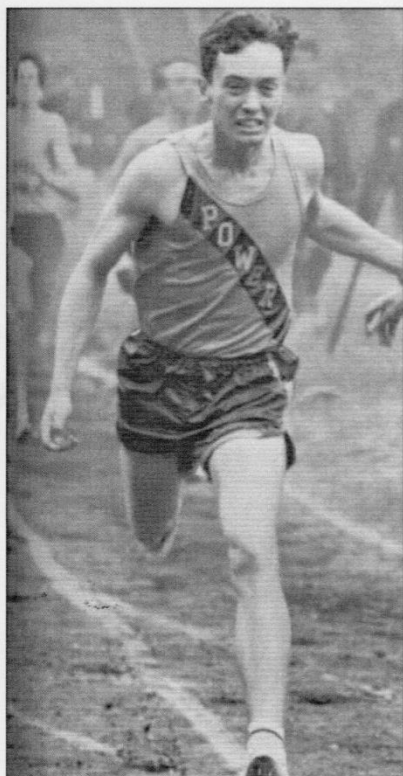


HALL OF FAME INDUCTEE

Kevin O'Brien

Class of 1965



Kevin O'Brien, eldest of 3 sons of Vincent (a New York City fireman) and Catherine (a homemaker with a part time career), grew up on Mosholu Parkway, attending grammar school at St. Brendan's Parish in the Norwood section of the Bronx.

Kevin's running career at Power excelled quickly, notably in Cross Country, at legendary Van Cortland Park in the Bronx. In the entire 97-year history of the CHSAA, only two runners have been individual Freshman, Sophomore and Varsity City Champions-Kevin O'Brien, and fellow Power Hall of Famer Ed Duchini '61. A three-year National Honor Society student and team captain in his senior year, Kevin would be the first CHSAA runner to break 13 minutes on the famed 2.5 mile back hills course, accomplishing this feat 4 times. Kevin's 4 wins and a 2nd place in 7 races included individual champion at both Sectionals and City Champs, along with team Sectionals 1st place and team City Champs 3rd place finishes. Kevin's best time was 12:50. A miler in both individual races and team relays, Kevin's mile performances at City Champs (2nd place as a junior and 3rd place as a senior) were early indications of further greatness, combined with his best time of 4:17 at the outdoor Washington D.C. Invitational Meet in 1965.

Kevin's Cross Country success continued at the University of Notre Dame in the IC4A championships. As a sophomore and junior, Kevin would help lead Notre Dame to 2nd and 4th place team finishes, including a personal best 5-mile time of 25:54. He was team captain for two seasons, and Kevin's goal to compete at 1500 Meters with Jim Ryun at the 1968 Olympics in Mexico fell short by just a half a second from the qualifying standard. Kevin was honored as an NCAA Division 1 First Team Track and Field All-American in 1969. A 1965 classmate, Lew Alcindor would receive a similar 1969 honor for Basketball. The 1965 Power class is the only year to have two First Team Collegiate All-Americans.

Kevin's adult life was spent mostly on the West Coast, in Washington and Hawaii. He built a highly successful career in the very competitive Information Technology industry. After a long battle with Lewy Body disease, Kevin passed in September of 2022. Kevin is survived by his wife, Patricia (O'Keefe) O'Brien, a Cathedral High School graduate, daughters Heather and Jennifer and several grandchildren, brothers Rich '68 and Jerry and his mother Catherine, who at 101 years of age is still going strong. God Bless Mrs. O'Brien!

Kevin's legacy at Power is more than just his outstanding running statistics. Kevin's leadership as team captain and the inspiration generated by his accomplishments continued to bear results for many years following his graduation. The 1965 City Champs was the first of 3 back-to-back-to-back City Championships that Power won, continuing in 1966 and 1967. Nine of the eleven runners being inducted this evening as part of the Power XC City Championship "Three-Peat" were his underclass teammates, following in his footsteps, maturing as runners and learning by his example. This was the start of a time where Power would win 8 CHSAA City Championships over a period of 10 years, under the coaching of Mr. John Mulligan and Br. John Bielen.

Ed Kelly '65, track teammate and lifelong friend, credited Kevin's focused personality and firm belief in Faith, Academics and Athletics as some of the most influential factors in his greatest victory, on or off the track...a life well lived.